

# CATS CONNECTION

*(Community Assistance & Technical Services)*



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration**

*Office of  
Pipeline Safety*

DECEMBER 2007

## Public Awareness Workshop

PHMSA will host a public workshop on pipeline operator Public Awareness programs on February 20 at the Hotel Derek in Houston, TX. PHMSA will share findings from the Clearinghouse review of written operator public awareness programs. Potential changes to API RP 1162 will be discussed. Also, distribution, transmission, and liquid operators will present information on lessons learned during the implementation of RP 1162-style public awareness programs. The workshop will be web cast live and will be available for viewing afterward as well. You can register for the workshop and access the web cast at

<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/MtgHome.mtg?mtg=49>

## Pipeline Marker Workshop

PHMSA will host a public workshop on gas transmission and liquid pipeline markers on the morning of February 21 at the Hotel Derek in Houston, TX. Markers are a crucial component of awareness for all pipeline safety stakeholders. Discussion during the workshop will center on the appropriate interval between markers and conditions that make the use of markers impractical. The workshop will not be web cast. You can register for the workshop at

<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/MtgHome.mtg?mtg=50>

## State Damage Prevention Program Grants

On November 21, PHMSA posted the State Damage Prevention Program Grant opportunity on grants.gov. State authorities can request grants to drive improvements in State Damage Prevention Programs. The nine elements of an effective program, listed in the PIPES Act, provide a standard against which States can measure their program and identify areas for improvement. The grant opportunity is contingent upon Congressional approval of the PHMSA budget. Applications for the grants are due by January 31, 2008.

## Common Ground Alliance Annual Meeting and Committee Meetings

The CGA Annual Meeting and Committee Meetings will be held in Las Vegas, NV from March 25-27 in conjunction with the Excavation Safety Conference. The schedule for CGA meetings is posted on the CGA web site and you can register for the conference at

<http://www.cgaconference.com/>

## VA One Call Technology Pilot Program Phase I Final Report

The final report for the VA One Call Technology Pilot Program has been published. Stakeholders developed software and identified hardware to incorporate GPS coordinates into One Call tickets to enhance communication among excavators and owners of underground facilities. The full report, which includes a description of how other States could implement the technology, is available at

[http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/publications/Virginia\\_Pilot\\_Project\\_Report\\_Phase\\_I.pdf](http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/publications/Virginia_Pilot_Project_Report_Phase_I.pdf)

## APGA SIF

PHMSA has extended its cooperative agreement with the American Public Gas Association (APGA) Security & Integrity Foundation (SIF) to further promote the security and operational integrity of small natural gas, propane and master meter distribution systems. Under the extension, PHMSA will continue to support Operator Qualification (OQ) services available to these small operators. The extension will also support enhancements to the model Distribution Integrity Management Plan known as SHRIMP (Simple Handy Risk-based Integrity Management Plan). SIF Newsletters can be accessed at <http://www.apgasif.org/>

## Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA)

On January 15-17, PHMSA will host the initial meeting of PIPA, which will rely heavily on the enterprise approach to improving pipeline safety. PHMSA will be working with property developers, home builders, real estate agents, pipeline operators, and Local, State, and Federal Government agencies to identify best practices for land use planning adjacent to transmission pipelines. PIPA Task Teams will focus on actions various stakeholders can take to improve the safety of both communities and pipelines. A Task Team will also be dedicated to effectively communicating the risks to communities and pipelines. The PIPA Steering Committee intends to establish the best practices and communication plan by January 2009.

## EPA Region III Emergency Preparedness Conference

PHMSA's Eastern Region CATS Manager moderated a panel of five pipeline representatives at a workshop tailored specifically to educate emergency responders regarding safe practices during a pipeline incident response. The "Preventing and Safely Responding to Pipeline Emergencies" workshop featured pipeline representatives from Buckeye, Sunoco, TEPPCO, Columbia Gas and Equitable Gas. The US EPA Region III Emergency Preparedness and Prevention and Hazmat Spills Conference was held in Pittsburgh, PA in early December. Over 900 people attended the training sessions and workshops. Many of the emergency responders were from neighboring states in the Northeast.

## TSA Pipeline Security

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Pipeline Security Division is responsible for coordinating pipeline security activities throughout the Nation. The TSA Pipeline Security Division has a single, clear mission - to enhance the security preparedness of the nation's hazardous liquid and natural gas pipeline systems. As a result of its Pipeline Corporate Security Review Program, the Pipeline Security Division developed security awareness training for pipeline companies to improve security awareness training. The compact disc-based course is centered on heightening pipeline employee awareness of suspicious activity and their importance in keeping our nation's pipeline system secure. For more information on the TSA Pipeline Security Division, the Corporate Security Review Program, and how to order the Pipeline Security Awareness Training CD, visit the TSA Pipeline Security website at [http://www.tsa.gov/what\\_we\\_do/tsnm/pipelines/index.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/tsnm/pipelines/index.shtm)

## Rulemakings

**Final Rule** On December 13, PHMSA published a final rule on "Applicability of Public Awareness Regulations to Certain Gas Distribution Operators." This final rule relaxes requirements for public awareness programs conducted by operators of master meter systems and certain operators of petroleum gas systems. These operators typically manage property and incidentally provide gas service to customers located on the property. The change focuses awareness activities on the operators' customers and reduces the duplication of awareness materials to local public and emergency officials. The final rule can be viewed at <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/publications/FRN-FinalRule-RelaxReqmnts-for-MasterMeter-n-SmallOperators-20071213.pdf>

# CATS Around the Country

## What CATS have been up to lately...

### National Events

[Blaine.Keener@dot.gov](mailto:Blaine.Keener@dot.gov)

- Met with the API Performance Excellence Team to examine changes to liquid annual reports and accident reports to provide data needed by PHMSA to better assess risk
- Four CATS Managers presented information during the Pipeline Safety Trust conference in New Orleans in November. Presentations from the conference and a web cast are available at <http://pstrust.org/conference/index.htm>
- Presented information about PIPA and the Pipeline Repair Environmental Guidance System (PREGS) to DOI Bureau of Land Management ROW Project Managers in December

### Central Region

[Karen.Butler@dot.gov](mailto:Karen.Butler@dot.gov)

[Harold.Winnie@dot.gov](mailto:Harold.Winnie@dot.gov)

- Participated in Second Annual Iowa Pipeline Safety Summit with 125 Emergency Responders and the Iowa Pipeline Association in November
- Presented information about public awareness programs during the Kansas Corporation Commission pipeline safety seminar in November
- Facilitated communication among FERC, SNI Island Levee Board, and Rockies Express to design an acceptable levee crossing
- Supported the Common Ground Alliance DIRT and R&D Committees
- Presented information about the CGA DIRT software to stakeholders at the CGA 811 Summits in St. Cloud and St Paul, MN
- Worked with the Attorney for the City of Lenexa to provide an understanding of operator concerns regarding encroachment
- Participated in a Meeting with the City of Fargo to discuss pipeline safety and their concerns with the Department of State proceedings for the TransCanada Keystone Pipeline Project

### Eastern Region

[Alex.Dankanich@dot.gov](mailto:Alex.Dankanich@dot.gov)

- Presented pipeline safety information during two FERC Scoping Meetings in MA for Algonquin's East to West Hubline Expansion Project in November
- Presented information about the OPS CATS Program to over 180 pipeline operator representatives at the New York pipeline safety seminar in Saratoga Springs in September
- Presented information about the 9 essential elements of an effective damage prevention program at the Delmarva Damage Prevention monthly meeting in September
- Participated in the NJ CGA Regional Partner quarterly meeting in Parsippany in October and emphasized the importance of the upcoming PIPA meeting
- Participated in PA One Call Board meeting in October to review recent changes to the PA One Call Law
- Participated in three sub-committees examining proposed new Best Practices during the November CGA Best Practices Committee meeting in San Diego, CA

## Southern Region

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[Joseph.Mataich@dot.gov](mailto:Joseph.Mataich@dot.gov)

- Participated in NACE Task Group TG360 to revise NACE Standard SP0169, cathodic protection criteria for pipelines, at NACE Corrosion Technology Week
- Participated in the accident investigation of the Dixie Pipeline propane pipeline rupture, including working with NTSB officials
- Represented PHMSA at the Hillsborough County After Action Review Meeting that was held as a result of the accident caused by an individual drilling a hole in the Tampa Bay Pipeline anhydrous ammonia pipeline
- Presented on the PIPES Act of 2006 at the Mississippi Gas Association Pipeline Safety Seminar
- Presented a Public Awareness/RP1162 update at the SGA Fall Leadership Conference
- Participated in the Alabama Corrosion Coordinating Committee Meeting
- Presented on the PIPES Act of 2006 at the Alabama Gas Pipeline Safety Seminar
- Participated in the Cobb County LEPC meeting

## Southwest Region

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[John.Pepper@dot.gov](mailto:John.Pepper@dot.gov)

- John Jacobi was recognized with a PHMSA award in December for promoting a positive relationship with the City of Austin
- Presented information on new Gas Gathering regulations at the Pipeline Open Data Standards (PODS) annual meeting
- Delivered two "Introduction to Pipeline Safety Regulation" presentations at the University of Texas Petroleum Extension Service
- Presented information on new Gas Gathering and Low Pressure Liquid Lines regulations at a pipeline industry forum
- Hosted a delegation from Brazil, sponsored by the American Chamber of Commerce, to address environmental issues associated with energy production, distribution, and refining
- Presented information on Public Awareness Programs, Liquid Pipeline Systems Integrity Management, Gas Pipeline Systems Integrity Management, and Low Pressure Liquid Pipeline regulations at the Oklahoma State Pipeline Safety Seminars
- Served as the Senior Federal Representative at a Liquid Pipeline Emergency (refined products spill into a river) exercise in Louisiana
- Served as an environmental technical expert in support of a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality investigation of a pipeline incident in Port Arthur

## Western Region

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[Ross.Reineke@dot.gov](mailto:Ross.Reineke@dot.gov)

- Presented pipeline safety information during two FERC Public Meetings for an Oregon LNG project in September
- Presented information about pipeline and hazardous materials safety during the NASFM emergency responder meeting in Alaska in November
- Participated in a November NASFM/HAZMAT meeting to encourage local emergency responders to implement GIS systems, including a transmission pipeline layer
- Presented information on damage prevention and other PHMSA initiatives at an AGC conference in October
- Supported the OPS Inspection Integration initiative
- In October, participated in a week long meeting for inspection integration
- Presented information about OQ and the PHMSA Strategic Plan to the United Steel Workers Conference in November
- Participated in a CGA Education, Membership and Marketing Committee meeting in December